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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/996,946	11/30/2001	Taeko Hayase	0445-0313P	3991

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EXAMINER

COLE, ELIZABETH M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1771	19

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/996,946	HAYASE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Elizabeth M Cole	1771	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 and 13-16 is/are pending in the application.

4a)-Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-11, 13-16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 1771

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11, 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Canadian Patent Application 2,047,010 to Burkhardt in view of JP 2000-212866 to Iwata et al, (partial translation attached). Burkhardt discloses a cleaning sheet comprising an absorbent nonwoven sheet which has a plurality of fibers or tips on one surface. The tips comprise thermoplastic polymer fibers such as polyester fibers having a preferred length of 8 mm and a fineness of 5-30 dtex. See page 3, paragraph 3. Burkhardt differs from the claimed invention because Burkhardt does not disclose that the substrate sheet comprises a mixture of cellulosic and thermoplastic fibers and because Burkhardt does not disclose the number of tips on the surface. With regard to the number of tips on the surface, it would have been obvious to have optimized the number of cleaning tips in the Burkhardt reference in order to arrive at a cleaning sheet having the optimum cleaning ability.

With regard to the substrate sheet itself, Burkhardt teaches that a nonwoven sheet may be used, but is silent as to the particulars of the sheet. JP 20000212866 to Iwata et al discloses a strong, bulky nonwoven fabric have excellent absorbency and wiping ability comprising a thermoplastic fiber having a length of 3-25 mm and a denier of 0.5 –50 denier which encompasses the claimed range and a cellulosic fibers. The fibers are bonded at intersections by heating. The cellulosic and thermoplastic fibers are present

in the claimed proportions. See paragraphs 9-16 of the partial translation and the abstract. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have employed the wiping fabric of Iwata et al as the substrate in Burkhardt. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the Iwata fabric as the substrate in Burkhardt because Iwata et al teaches that the nonwoven is particularly suitable for use a wiper and has good strength, bulk, and absorbency.

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11, 13-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth M. Cole whose telephone number is (703) 308-0037. The examiner may be reached between 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday.

Mr. Terrel Morris, the examiner's supervisor, may be reached at (703) 308-2414.

Inquiries of a general nature may be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

The fax number for official faxes is (703) 872-9310. The fax number for official after final faxes is (703) 872-9311. The fax number for unofficial faxes is (703) 305-5436.



Elizabeth M. Cole
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1771